

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 /056 W
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R 111310Z DEC 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1471

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJ: ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF SHIA AND INTERNAL SECURITY

REF: TEHRAN 10171

1. ONLY LEBANESE AND QATARI AMBASSADOR HAVE PROVIDED POSSIBLE CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGED ARREST AND SENTENCING OF SHIA THEOLOGAINS AS REPORTED IN TEHRAN PRESS (REFTEL). LEBANESE AMBASSADOR SAID SOME LEBANESE SHIA HAD INTERVENED ON BEHALF OF LEBANESE SHIA. HE HAD KEPT OUT OF IT BECAUSE HE BELIEVED PERSON TO BE DUAL NATIONAL AND ENGAGED IN POLITICS. QATAR AMBASSADOR HAD MORE DETAILS. HE SAID THREE OF FIVE ALLEGEDLY EXECTED WERE STUDENTS AND TWO WERE TEACHERS, ALL OF WHOM BELONGED TO ISLAMIC POLITICAL PARTY WITH LINKS TO IRAN. NONE WERE IMPORTANT SHIA. HE ALSO SAID 35 OTHERS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE ISLAMIC POLITICAL PARTY.

2. ANOTHER SOURCE SAID SENTENCING AND ARREST OF SHIA WERE POSSIBLY RELATED TO RECENT ARREST AND EXECUTION OF SOME COMMUNISTS, WHO HAD ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH CELLS IN ARMY, AND TO LONG SENTENCES GIVEN TO FREEMANSONS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN UNDER ARREST FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR.

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ACCORDING TO IRAQI LAWYER, SOME OF FREEMASONS MADE

"CONFESSIONS" IMPLICATING BRITISH INTELLIGENCE AND CIA
IN PLOTS AGAINST GOI DURING THEIR "TRIALS".

3. FRENCH COUNSELLOR SAILLARD TOLD ME DEC 8 THAT HE
HAD REPORT THAT THREE HAD ALSO BEEN SERIES OF ARRESTS
AMONG HIGH LEVEL SECURITY AND POLICE OFFICIALS. ANOTHER
INDICATION OF REGIME'S SECURITY APPREHENSION IS FACT
THAT RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S VISIT
TO SPAIN WAS NOT ANNOUNCED UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE DEC 9.

4. COMMENT: SECURITY CRACKDOWN OF PAST FEW MONTHS
SEEMS TO BE INDISCRIMINATE RATHER THAN AIMED AT SHIA IN
PARTICULAR. IT APPEARS THAT AS REGIME OPENING UP
FOREIGN INFLUENCES, IT BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO GET EVEN TOUGHER
AT HOME.
LOWRIE

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